



# EANGUS

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The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510-3002

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) represents the interests of every enlisted Soldier and Airman in the Army and Air National Guard. With a constituency base of over 414,000 Soldiers and Airmen, their families, and a large retiree membership, EANGUS offers its full support to your proposed new bill, the "Sergeant Coleman Bean National Guard & Reserves Mental Health Act".

This much needed legislation will go a long way towards helping to close the gap in mental health support for National Guard/Reserve Soldiers & Airmen. Since 9/11, roughly 600,000 members of the National Guard & Reserves have been deployed to various points around the world in support of contingency operations.

The National Guard is unique among components of the Armed Forces in that it has dual state and federal missions. This duality is responsible for numerous inequities and challenges experienced by the National Guard and Reserve forces. This is especially true during the post-deployment transition back to civilian life, when the mental health needs of our National Guard Soldiers & Airmen are often overlooked.

Last year Congress included Section 708, "Mental Health Assessments for Members of the Armed Forces Deployed in Connection with a Contingency Operation," in the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 708 requires the Department of Defense to issue guidance on and provide mental health screenings for each member of the Armed Forces who is deployed in connection with a contingency operation.

The **Sergeant Coleman Bean National Guard and Reserves Mental Health Act** will ensure that these mental health services are available to Guard and Reserve members and will provide mental health support services for previously deployed members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), Inactive National Guard (ING) and Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA), who may have been overlooked under current military mental health regulations. Specifically, the Act:

- Amends Section 708 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, "Mental Health Assessments for Members of the Armed Forces Deployed in Connection with a Contingency Operation," to make it explicit that members of the National Guard and Reserve are covered under these provisions;
- Requires a regular mental health screening via phone for all members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING) and Individual Mobilization Augmentees deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001;

- Gives the military the authority to call up each individual to active duty—with the individual's consent—for the purposes of providing in-person, mental health screenings when necessary. This will ensure these service members have job protection, basic pay, costs covered for travel and any other benefits that normally attach to active duty should they need further mental health screenings.

Thank you for supporting the needs of National Guard/Reserve Soldiers & Airmen. If we can offer our assistance as this legislation moves through the system, please let us know. My point-of-contact for this and all legislation is Diane Zumatto, Legislative Director; she may be reached at [dzumatto@eangus.org](mailto:dzumatto@eangus.org).

Working for America's Best!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Cline". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent than the last name "Cline".

MSG (Ret) Michael P. Cline, USA  
Executive Director